



## Office of Mayor

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, in Washington State, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, rape is among the most underreported crimes for reasons that include victim's fear of being disbelieved or further traumatized within systems designed to support them. Additional barriers, such as language, immigration status, gender bias, and systemic racism further oppress and silence victims; and

**WHEREAS**, individual and community impacts of sexual violence are rooted in and compounded by racism, sexism, heterosexism, and other forms of oppression. Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, people living in poverty, LGBTQ+ people, elders, people with disabilities, and other people targeted by oppression are disproportionately affected by sexual violence in significant and complex ways; and

**WHEREAS**, 41% of Americans have been personally subjected to harassing behavior online, and people from historically oppressed groups are more likely to experience online harassment, mirroring inequities we see elsewhere in society; and

**WHEREAS**, negative impacts of sexual violence trauma on adults, youth and children include fear, concern for safety, physical and mental health issues, injury, and missed work or school; and

**WHEREAS**, working together as a community, we can alleviate the trauma of sexual violence by ensuring supportive resources are available to all survivors, while standing up to actively disrupting harmful attitudes and behaviors that contribute to sexual assault,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Rob McFarland, Mayor, join advocates and communities throughout King County in taking action to prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors and proclaiming April, 2022 as

### Sexual Assault Awareness Month

in the City of North Bend and encourage all to commit to a safer future for all children, young people, adults, and families in our community.



Signed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2022

**Rob McFarland**  
**Mayor**